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LETTER/KLOS.DIV.

David Bateman
225 22nd NW Street
Faribault, MN 55021

March 25, 1994

U.S. Dept. of Transportation
400 7th Street Southwest
Washington DC 20590

FHWA-97-2221-53

Dear Congress

My name is David Bateman. I am deaf and live in Faribault, Minnesota.

My high goal is truck driver (over the road). I passed the CDL Class A in 1992 and went to school for truck driver training in Rosemount, MN. for 6 months and graduated in March 1993. I am lot of talent to drive the semi truck. I am very understand about Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations alike follow the rules. I readed on Safety Regulations about Physical Qualifications for drivers in 391.41. I am understand about the hearing loss in 391.41(11) which I failed the Dot Physical because my hearing loss is total 45 decibels with hearing aid. Obvious I can't get a job as a truck driver because of hearing loss are not met their requirement. My feel is hurt because of the Law and also Minnesota adopted the Federal Law. I don't want the Law ruin my life "destroyed my dream". I am request the waiver for hearing loss. I know the congress are talking about the waiver. Please lift the ban on deaf truck driver and pass the waiver in soon time. I don't want to wait for long and long time, make me suffer.

I readed the Federal Register about the waiver. Questions about the specially designed mirror and visual warning devices. I want to say about the mirror if Federal want a wide mirror or other designed. I am disagree about wide mirror because I went to school for truck driver training and drive their trucks with regular plane and conver mirror. I have no problem with regular mirror, look fine to me. If put a wide mirror, I will embarrassing because if another hearing driver saw the wide mirror on the truck. He/She will know that deaf driver and might start angry or will hurt deaf driver's feel because i readed the magazine about Overdrive. The American Trucking Associations has come out against CDL medical waiver programs, such as the proposed waivers for diabetics and hearing-

impaired drivers. So I suggested the mirror with objects are closer than they appear on regular mirror.

About visual warning devices. I know some trucks with beep if something went wrong, the hearing driver will hear. Their some trucks with warning lights because I went to truck driver school and school trucks have warning lights so I can read on dashboard with warning lights and gauges. I have no problem to read on dashboard so not need to change any designed about it. I am sure some trucks out there have some warning lights, too.

Other questions about hazardous matericals or passengers. I am not really interesting about hazardous matericals because I am not knowledge about dangerous chemicals.

About the transporting passengers. I want to say about it if I can drive school bus to bring deaf students because I can communicate them to tell what do if deaf students went play around or fighting. If they start looking for trouble, I will pull over to the shoulder and stopped bus and tell them to stop. That easy way. If I retired from truck driver and might drive the greyground bus for awhile because some deaf elderly people went tp specially places for vacations. I still can communicate to them.

Once again Please lift the ban on deaf truck driver and gave deaf truck driver a chance.

Sincerely,



David Bateman